

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 24 as indicated in red on the attached Annotated Sheet. A Replacement Sheet presenting a replacement Fig. 24 which incorporate the desired changes is also enclosed in the Submitted Drawings section of this amendment.

Reference numbers 50, 54, and 56 have been amended to 84, 88, and 90, respectively, which is consistent with the specification and remaining figures.

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in this application, claims 20-44 having been withdrawn. Claims 1-19 and 45-63 are rejected; and claims 18 and 62 are objected to. Claims 1, 17, 18, 45, 61, and 62 are amended; and claims 16 and 60 are canceled hereby.

The title has been amended as noted above.

Responsive to the provisional rejection of claims 1-19 and 45-63 under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-12, 15-22, and 59-64 of Application No. 10/768,550, Applicants are submitting a terminal disclaimer.

Responsive to the objection to claims 18 and 62 for using the acronym HPTAD, HPTAD in claims 18 and 62 has been amended to “High Pressure Through Air Dryer”. Page 15, line 15, has been amended accordingly as well.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-3, 11-19, 45-47, and 55-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0237210 (Thoroe-Scherb et al.), claims 1-3, 11, 18-19, 45-47, 55, and 62-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,102,737 (Morton) or U.S. Patent No. 3,301,746 (Sanford et al.), and claims 1-3, 11, 18-19, 45-47, 55, and 62-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,454,904 (Hermans et al.), Applicants have amended claims 1 and 45 and canceled claims 16 and 60. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2-3 and 11-19 depending therefrom, and claim 45, and claims 46-47 and 55-63 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Thoroe-Scherb et al. discloses a method and an apparatus 10 for manufacturing a fiber web 12 provided with a three-dimensional paper structure. Figs. 3 and 4 show web 12 guided over dewatering device 34 between fabric 14 and clothing 36. Fig. 3 also shows web 12 guided

over a suction roll 30 together with fabrics 28 and 14. Fig. 5 shows web 12 guided through pressure space 58 together with fabric 14 and membrane 68.

Morton discloses a papermaking process suited for use with twin wire formation style papermaking machines. A foraminous drying/imprinting fabric conventionally utilized to thermally predry a moist paper web is extended to the twin wire formation zone, thereby eliminating one of the conventionally utilized Fourdrinier wire sections. (Abstract)

Sanford et al. discloses papermaking furnish delivered from a headbox 10 to a Fourdrinier wire 11. Subsequently, web 13 is positioned between wire 11 and imprinting fabric 20.

Hermanns et al. discloses web 10 guided between a first fabric 14 and a second fabric 24. Subsequently, web 10 is guided between second fabric 24 and a support fabric 22. (Fig. 1).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part “carrying the fibrous web on a side of a first fabric; contacting an other side of said first fabric with an extended nip press belt; contacting the fibrous web with a side of a second fabric, the fibrous web being between said first fabric and said second fabric, said first fabric being between said extended nip press belt and the fibrous web.” (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Thoroe-Scherb et al., Morton, Sanford et al., and Hermans et al., or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

The Office Action, at page 4, indicates that suction roll 30 of Fig. 3 is associated with the extended nip press belt; presumably, then, the Office Action holds that fabric 28 then corresponds to the belt. Web 12, however, is not bounded by a fabric on the outside in Fig. 3. Thoroe-Scherb et al., thus, fails to disclose web 12 being between first and second fabrics and the first fabric being between fabric 28 and the web. Fig. 1 of Morton shows a web formed intermediate Fourdrinier wire 3 and drying/imprinting fabric 4 but fails to show the web being between first and second fabrics and the first fabric being between an extended nip press belt and the web. Fig.

1 of Sanford et al. shows web 13 between wire 11 and imprinting fabric 20 but fails to show the web being between first and second fabrics and the first fabric being between an extended nip press belt and the web. Fig. 1 of Hermanns et al. shows a web guided between two fabrics but fails to show one of the fabrics also between an extended nip press belt and the web.

An advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a press belt to assist in dewatering the web along with first and second fabrics.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2-3 and 11-19 depending therefrom, and claim 45, and claims 46-47 and 55-63 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 4-10 and 48-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thoroe-Scherb et al. as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 6,716,318 (Watanabe) or U.S. Patent No. 6,616,812 (Beck). However, claims 4-10 and 48-54 respectively depend from claims 1 and 45, which are in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 4-10 and 48-54 are also now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Additional amendments have been made to the specification, as noted above, to be consistent with the remainder of the specification and the drawings.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have) overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally

petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,
TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to
telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kelly R. Bailey/

Kelly R. Bailey
Registration No. 57,284

Attorney for Applicant

KRB/bd

Electronically Filed May 7, 2007

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.
142 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 560
Avilla, IN 46710
Telephone: 260-897-3400
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

SUBMITTED DRAWINGS

Drawings that are being submitted include a Replacement Sheet and an Annotated Sheet, as indicated on the pages that follow.